

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET

25X1

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Plants and Factories under the First Main Administration, Ministry of Chemical Industry	DATE DISTR.	8 April 1953	
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	5	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.		25X1
		REFERENCES		

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1 1. Following is a list of the plants and factories subordinate to the First Main Administration of the Ministry of Chemical Industry

25X1 the first two
25X1 belonged to the First Main Administration

25X1 2. Synthesia Chemical Plant

25X1 The Synthesia Chemical Plant was a large industrial complex located in a wooded area in Semtin /5003N-1543E/, a village situated on the main road between Pardubice and Bohdanec /5005N-1541E/. The approximate location of the plant was 5005N-1543E. The plant extended along the north side of this road, just opposite the East Bohemian Chemical Works, usually known as the Rybitvi Plant /5003N-1542E/. In front of, and outside of, the main entrance to the plant were two administration buildings in which were located the plant's administrative and technical staffs. The nitrocellulose departments were located deep in the forest; they were underground and separated by natural earth walls.

25X1 Annex For DS-534's memory sketch of the plant. Both the Synthesia and Rybitvi plants are shown. a very general picture of the plants.

25X1

SECRET

25X1

STATE	x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC				
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--

124

SECRET

-2-

3. Founded in the early part of the twentieth century as a holding company of the Imperial Chemical Works of England, Synthesia was nationalized in 1945, and at that time an extensive program of reconstruction was begun. Between 1946 and 1949 the plant obtained, as German reparations, complete processing equipment for the production of pentaerythritol tetranitrate (PETN) and another PETN mixture, plus all process data. [redacted] this equipment was installed either in May 1952 or is in the process of being installed. This equipment was first sent to Synthesia and later transferred to the East Bohemia Chemical Works; then, in 1951, it was hastily returned to Synthesia. The two engineers, (fnu) ZADROBILEK and (fnu) PLICKA, who had supervised the removal of the equipment from Wusterhausen [5253N-1227E], Germany, were in charge of installing it at Synthesia. Other reparations received by Synthesia from Germany included complete processing equipment for the production of nitro-cellulose, celluloid, and nitric acid, together with all process data [redacted]
4. Synthesia's principal products were military and industrial explosives, ammonia, nitric acid, potassium and sodium cyanides, fertilizers, collodion, formaldehyde, and ethers. [redacted] more military explosives were produced than industrial explosives. [redacted] the Ministry of Defense handled all matters concerning military explosives. [redacted] Two basic types of industrial explosives were produced, one for use in mines with gases and one for use in mines without gases. [redacted] the value of industrial explosives produced by Synthesia for the year 30 December 1951 to 29 December 1952 amounted to 260,000,000 crowns. The average price of industrial explosives during this same period was 12½ crowns per kilogram. Production was insufficient to meet the mounting needs of the Czech mining and building industries. In fact, [redacted] Czechoslovakia would have to import industrial explosives from East Germany during 1953 to compensate for the low production of industrial explosives. In the Summer of 1951 a breakdown in machinery and a lack of spare parts necessitated the import of industrial explosives from East Germany. This situation lasted for about six weeks. Again, in May 1952, the production of explosives for mines with gases, particularly those explosives scheduled for the Ostrava region, was interrupted for about two weeks because of machinery repairs. Instead of importing explosives from East Germany, however, the Dimitrov plant [see below] hurriedly increased its production of these particular explosives during the two week period of repairs. Besides industrial and military explosives, Synthesia also produced the following: nitric acid, of which it was one of the largest producers; ammonia, of which it was also one of the largest producers; ethers, of which [redacted] Synthesia was the sole producer in Czechoslovakia; potassium and sodium cyanides, of which Synthesia was the largest producer in Czechoslovakia and the only producer in Bohemia and Slovakia; collodion, of which Synthesia was the only producer in Czechoslovakia; ethanol; butanol; and ethylene glycol.
5. [redacted] the number of workers employed by Synthesia at about 3,000 or 4,000, mostly men and [redacted] all Czechs; the plant operated on three shifts. The railroad system inside the plant was quite extensive and adequate. Adjacent to the Rybitvi Chemical Works and opposite Synthesia, on the south side of the main road from Pardubice to Bohdanec, a new large electric power station was under construction and scheduled to be completed by the end of 1952. This power station [redacted] will use coal for fuel, will service both Synthesia and Rybitvi. The general manager of Synthesia was a former worker [redacted] He replaced Dr. (fnu) ZIZKA, an engineer who was jailed in 1951. The plant superintendent was Ing. (fnu) HOLY, who had been an official of the plant since before World War II.

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

Juraje Dimitrov Zavod

6. This plant, formerly known as Dynamit Nobel, was quite old and was considerably expanded during the period 1920-1937. It was located in the suburbs of Bratislava. Inasmuch as it was one of the largest and most important chemical plants in Slovakia, it was further expanded after 1948 and there were plans for additional expansion. The plant's main products were industrial and military explosives, sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, carbon disulphide, and superphosphates. the annual value, covering the period of the yearly plan from 30 December 1951 to 29 December 1952, of industrial explosives produced by Dimitrov amounted to 100,000,000 crowns. This plant used large quantities of imported pyrites, phosphates, and sulphur. the pyrites came from Spain through various channels, one of which was British. Czechoslovakia received its phosphates from North Africa but some phosphates were expected to be imported from the USSR. The plant employed about 2,000 or 3,000 workers who worked mostly in two shifts, although some departments may have worked in three shifts. The plant had its own power station. Transportation facilities included railroad spur tracks, and they were adequate. Since all the top people were dismissed in 1951, the names of the present administrative staff members. Among those dismissed in 1951 were the managing director, Ing. (fnu) RISA and the administrative director, Dr. (fnu) HOFFMAN.

Dusikarny

7. Located in the southern outskirts of Ostrava, this plant, which was built during the First Republic, was quite modern. There were plans for expansion, particularly in the field of fertilizers. Dusikarny's principal products were fertilizers (it was the largest producer of fertilizers in Czechoslovakia), nitric acid, and oxalic acid. As a rough estimate the number of workers at approximately 2,500; the plant worked in three shifts. the plant had its own power station. spur tracks led into the grounds of the factory. The plant manager was a former worker Ing. (fnu) STUCHLIK, who had held his position since 1945, was the administrative deputy.

Draslovka

8. Draslovka consisted of two plants, one on the outskirts of Kolin /5002N-1512E/ and another at Uhrineves /5002N-1436E/ about 15 km. south of Prague. Both plants were quite modern, having been constructed in the 1930's and subsequently reconstructed. The main products of both plants were fertilizers, sodium and potassium cyanides, and galvanic salts. The Uhrineves plant had a laboratory for the testing of galvanic salts. the Kolin plant had spur tracks leading to the factory. In August 1952 the entire management was dismissed, including (fnu) BORKOVEC,

SECRET

25X1

SECRET, [REDACTED]

25X1
[REDACTED]

-4-

Kostolany

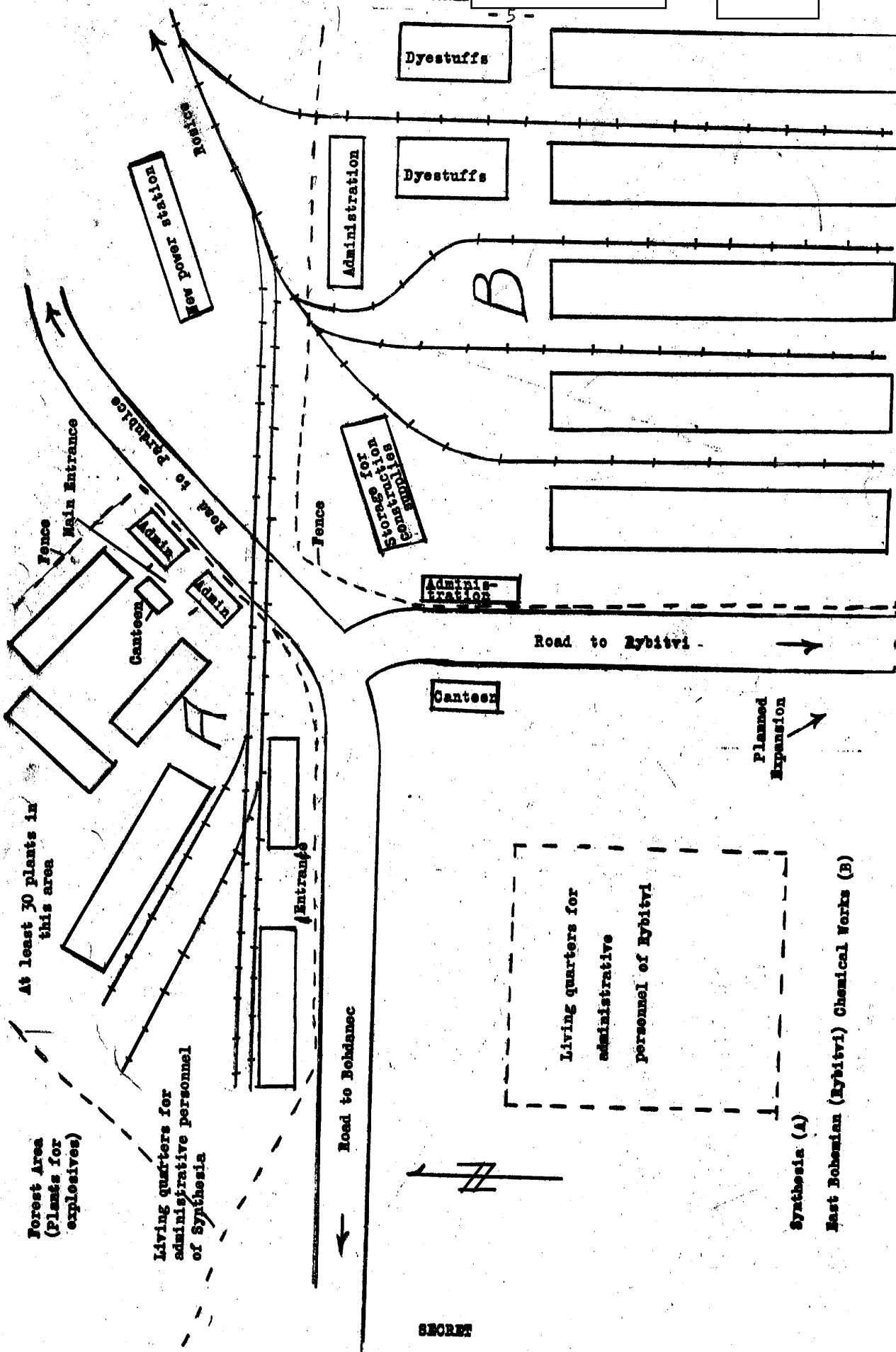
9. Although the Kostolany plant did not belong to the Ministry of Chemical Industry, but probably to the Ministry of Defense, [REDACTED] because of its connection with explosives. It was located about 10 km. from Novaky /4843N-1833E/ in the direction of Zilina /4913N-1844E/, and was a small factory where some military explosives may be produced. [REDACTED] it is quite possible, based on rumors [REDACTED] and on the fact that military explosives were produced there in 1947 under the supervision of the military, that research work with military explosives was being conducted there instead of actual production.

SECRET

ANNEX

SECRET

25X1



SECRET